INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) For improving the performance of various public sector units whose problems differ widely, various steps have to be taken from time to time. There cannot be any single formula of such steps applicable to all enterprises. There is no proposal under consideration to merge sick units. Persons from the private sector are also considered for appointment in the public sector and various measures have been taken from time to time to give greater autonomy to the public sector enterprises consistent with accountability.

Well logging facilities in the country

598. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian joint venture company, called Greaves Dresser Atlas, exists for providing well logging facilities in the country;

(b) what tasks have been assigned to this indigenous venture in the Southern and the Eastern regions;

(c) if no task has been assigned, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any contract has been awarded to any other Agency; and

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, who is currently doing the work and on what basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No contract has been awarded to this joint venture by ONGC and Oil India Limited in the Southern and Eastern regions.

(c) and (d) The offers of this joint venture were either technically or commercially not acceptable in the tenders of ONGC and Oil India Limited and the contracts were awarded to Schlumberger Group of companies.

(e) Does not arise.

Memorandum of Understanding signed with public sector units

599. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a serious criticism of the Memorandum of Understanding being signed by Government with various public sector units; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to achieve the objective of making public sector enterprises truly autonomous?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to enhance the autonomy of public sector undertakings and make them accountable for results. Delegation of enhanced financial powers to the Boards of Public Sector Undertakings, longer tenure to Chief Executives and Functional Directors, reduction in the number of Government Directors on the Boards of Public Sector Undertakings and signing of Memoranda of Understanding are some of the measures Governments have taken in this regard.

Setting up of solar power stations

600. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made by Government for the setting up of experimental solar power stations of 10 to 20 MW;

(b) if so, what are the names of such States where such plants are likely to be set up; and

(c) what are the details regarding the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a)